

Message Text

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SUBJ: AMB MAILLIARD'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ: THE NEW
DIALOGUE, THE OAS AND THE CUBAN ISSUE

1. AMBASSADORS MAILLIARD AND VAKY HAD A VERY FRIENDLY, HOUR-
LONG CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ JANUARY 23.
THE PRESIDENT TOOK THE OCCASION TO DISCUSS PRINCIPALLY WHAT HE
CALLED COLOMBIAN PROBLEMS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE : A) TEXTILES,
B) OIL, I.E. THE RELATION OF THE GOC TO THE FOREIGN OIL COMPAINIES,
AND C) THE RELATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TALKS TO THE URRUTIA-
THOMPSON TREATY. THESE ARE BEING REPORTED BY SEPARATE CABLE.
THIS CABLE SUMMARZIES THE PRESIDENT'S OBSERVATIONS OF THE
NEW DIALOGUE AND THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING, COLOMBIAN'S GENERAL
POSITION RE THE HEMISPERE AND THE CUBAN ISSUE.

2. AMB MAILLIARD BEGAN THE DISCUSSION BY REFERRING TO THE
PRESIDENT'S SPEECH ON THE PREVIOUS DAY TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.
IN IT THE PRESIDENT HAD STATED THAT IT WAS COLOMBIAN POLICY TO AVID
RADICAL EXTREMES AND TO EXERCISE A MODERATING INFLUENCE BETWEEN
SUPERPOWERS AND SMALL COUNTRIES. AMB. MAILLIARD RAISED THE TRA
AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE
LEGISLATION WOULD NOT IMPERIL THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING. THE
PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT BUENOS AIRES WAS NOT THE PROPER PLACE
FOR DISCUSSION OF THE TRA; THAT SUCH DISCUSSION SHOULD TAKE PLACE
WITHIN THE FORMAL STRUCTURE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, WHETHER
THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IN ANY CASE, THE
PRESIDENT SAID, HE SAW THE CONCEPT OF THE NEW DIALOGUE WAS HARMFUL
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 00786 242145Z

TO THE INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM BECAUSE IT WAS AN ADMISSION THAT THE

FORMAL STRUCTURES WERE INCAPABLE OF DEALING WITH U.S.-LATIN PROBLEMS. IN THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS, WHEN ONE IS A MEMBER OF THE CLUB ONE DOES NOT GO OUTSIDE IT TO HOLD MEETINGS IN A BAR. NEVERTHELESS, COLOMBIA WOULD ATTEND THE B.A. MEETING.

4. AMB. MAILLIARD AGREED THAT OVER THE LONG RUN IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO INTEGRATE THE NEW DIALOGUE WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT PUBLIC NATURE OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES PRECLUDED EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OF MULTILATERAL PROBLEMS.

5. TURNING TO CUBA, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE QUITO MEETING WAS BADLY MISMANAGED AND THAT HE HAD HAD THE UNDERSTANDING THAT PROVIDED THE MEETING OF CONSULTATION WAS HELD AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS, THE U.S. WOULD SUPPORT A MOVE TO LIFT SANCTIONS.

6. AMB. MAILLIARD SAID THIS WAS NOT CORRECT; THAT THE U.S. HAD INDICATED IT WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE HOLDING OF THE MEETING, BUT HAD NEVER INDICATED IT WOULD SUPPORT A REMOVAL OF SANCTIONS. HE SAID HE DID NOT FEEL THE U.S. POSITION HAD ALTERED SINCE QUITO, BUT DID POINT OUT THE U.S. AGREEMENT TO A MODIFICATION OF VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE RIO TREATY, AND THAT THIS MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN ACHIEVING SOME MOVEMENT ON THE CUBAN QUESTION IN B.A.

7. CLOSING THE CONVERSATION THE PRESIDENT REFERRED BACK TO THE COLOMBIAN POLICY OF PARA 2. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT FORGET THE IMPORTANT AND FRIENDLY NATURE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ALTHOUGH IT APPEARED THE U.S. PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH WERE RADICALLY CRITICAL OF USG POLICIES.
VAKY

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